

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 27-31 and 33 are currently under consideration. Claims 5, 17, 19, 27 and 30 are amended to address points raised in the outstanding Office Action and in informal teleconferences between the Examiner and applicant's representative on March 15, 2006 and March 21, 2006. The amendments are fully supported by the specification. Claim 18 is canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 11 and 25 are canceled as being duplicative of claim 19; and claims 32 and 34 are canceled as being duplicative of claim 30. Claims 6-8 and 13-16 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants thank the Examiner for informally reviewing proposed claims submitted to her and suggesting minor changes concerning, *e.g.*, antecedent basis that would place the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants do not understand the basis for the Examiner's request to amend the recitation of "a" nucleic acid to "the" nucleic acid in, *e.g.*, claim 19, section (1), or the rationale for amending "content" to "level" (both of which mean "amount") in, *e.g.*, claim 19. Nevertheless, in the interest of expediting prosecution, the claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. The amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims and do not introduce new matter. The current set of claims reflects the discussion with the Examiner and it is thus believed that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 18

Applicants maintain that claim 18 is supported in the specification by clear written description, for reasons of record. Nevertheless, in an effort to expedite prosecution, claim 18 is canceled. Applicants reserve the right to pursue this subject matter in a future application. The rejections of claim 18 are moot in view of the cancellation of the claim.

Independent claims 17, 19, 27 and 30 (and amended claim 5) with regard to complementary sequences

Applicants do not understand the Examiner's concern about the claim language regarding complementary sequences. Nevertheless, in the interest of expediting prosecution, these claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. The amendments do not introduce new matter, and do not narrow of the scope of the claims.

Claims 11 and 32, with regard to the recitation of a tissue sample "from prostate tissue"

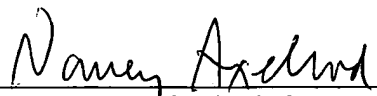
Applicants disagree with the allegation by the Examiner that the recitation of a sample "from prostate tissue" lacks enablement, for reasons of record. Nevertheless, in an effort to expedite prosecution, these two claims are canceled, and the term a sample "from a primary prostate tumor" is inserted into the claims from which they depend (claims 19 and 30, respectively).

In view of the preceding arguments and amendments, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Should any additional fee be deemed due, please charge such fee to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261, referencing docket number 31978-202420 and advise us accordingly. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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